

## Message Text

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ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY  
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PARM

SUBJECT: APRIL 18 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. KAREN ELLIOTT HOUSE AND KENNETH BACON OF WALL STREET  
JOURNAL SAID U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE GONE "LONG WAY  
DOWN" SINCE DETENTE BEGAN FEW YEARS AGO. "ONE MEASURE OF  
STRAIN: NOT ONLY ARE TWO SUPERPOWERS HAVING TROUBLE IN  
REACHING NEW NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT, BUT RELATIONS  
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BETWEEN THEM AREN'T LIKELY TO IMPROVE EVEN IF SUCH AN  
ACCORD IS NEGOTIATED THIS YEAR. IN CAPSULE FORM, THAT'S  
CONSENSUS OF WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WHO WATCH AND INTERPRET  
SOVIET MOVES. REASON FOR THEIR PESSIMISM: CARTER ADMINI-  
STRATION REMAINS BEFUDDLED ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH MOSCOW.  
CAPITALIZING ON THIS CONFUSION, RUSSIANS ARE PRESSING TO  
EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE." JOURNAL

STAFF REPORTERS SAID "CONTRASTING SOVIET DRIVE WITH AMERICAN DIFFIDENCE, ONE OF MR. CARTER'S CLOSEST FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS SAYS: 'THEY WANT TO BE NO. 1; WE WANT TO BE COMFORTABLE.'" HOUSE AND BACON SAID SECRETARY VANCE, DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW, WILL STRESS SALT, NOT SOVIET TROUBLEMAKING IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. ONE REASON FOR

FOCUS ON SALT IS THAT VANCE AND BRZEZINSKI "STRONGLY DISAGREE ON HOW TO RESOLVE OTHER DISPUTES WITH RUSSIANS," HOUSE AND BACON POINTED OUT. "MR. VANCE FAVORS CALM DIPLOMACY, BUT MR. BRZEZINSKI ADVOCATES TOUGH TIT-FOR-TAT APPROACH. AND MR. CARTER APPEARS TO VACILLATE." THEY SAID SOME WASHINGTON OFFICIALS FEAR THAT MR. CARTER MAY BE IGNORING MOOD IN CONGRESS AND IN COUNTRY. THEY QUOTED ONE ADVISER AS SAYING "VANCE OUGHT TO BE NEGOTIATING WITH JACKSON, NOT BREZHNEV." SENATOR JACKSON TOLD THEM "SO-CALLED PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS DOWNTOWN WILL MAKE SERIOUS MISTAKE IF THEY THINK AMERICAN PUBLIC DOESN'T BELIEVE IN LINKAGE" BETWEEN SALT AND SOVIET ADVENTURISM.

2. FREE LANCER TAD SZULC IN SUNDAY'S WASHINGTON POST SAID SOVIET EMBARRASSMENT OVER DEFECTION OF ARKADY N. SHEVCHENKO "MAY DEEPEN AND TURN INTO CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT FOR SOVIETS IF SHEVCHENKO AGREES, AS MAY WELL HAPPEN, TO SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MOSCOW'S DIPLOMATIC AND DISARMAMENT POLICY SECRETS WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT. IT UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT TIME WHEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON ARE ENTERING FINAL PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR SALT TWO AGREEMENT. NOTHING WOULD BE MORE VALUABLE TO U.S. AT THIS DIFFICULT JUNCTURE IN TALKS THAN TO ACQUIRE THROUGH SHEVCHENKO AN INSIDE UNDERSTANDING OF HOW RUSSIANS PLAN AND FORMULATE THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. IN THIS SENSE, SHEVCHENKO IS POTENTIALLY RICHEST PRIZE IN DIPLOMATIC INTELLIGENCE EVER HANDED U.S."

3. FORMER CIA OFFICIAL HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR., IN APRIL 18 LETTER TO NEW YORK TIMES, SAID AN APRIL 6 TIMES EDITORIAL EXTOLLING VIRTUES OF NEUTRON BOMB "CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DONNYBROOK OVER NEUTRON BOMB OF PAST TWO WEEKS AND UNDOUBTEDLY TO WEAKENING OUR SECURITY.... OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON AVOIDING NUCLEAR CONFLICT BY WIDENING, NOT NARROWING, FIREBREAK BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NEUTRON BOMB, WHICH DOES OPPOSITE, IS DANGEROUS AND UNNEEDED MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL TOY."

4. TIME MAGAZINE (APRIL 24) SAID "NEUTRON WARHEAD WAS DESIGNED TO STOP SOVIET TANKS, BUT SO FAR ONLY DAMAGE

CAUSED BY WEAPON HAS BEEN WITHIN NATO." NOTING THAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING MADE ON 7,000 "CONVENTIONAL" TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ALREADY BASED IN EUROPE, TIME MAGAZINE SAID "THESE, IRONICALLY, ARE BIGGER AND MORE DESTRUCTIVE, TO BOTH LIVES AND PROPERTY, THAN MUCH MALIGNED NEUTRON WEAPON."

5. NEWSWEEK (APRIL 24) REPORTED THAT "SOVIET INTENTIONS

IN AFRICA WERE AT HEART OF MATTER BETWEEN BRZEZINSKI AND VANCE. BRZEZINSKI FAVORS USING MOSCOW'S DESIRE FOR SALT PACT AS WAY OF OBTAINING RUSSIAN RESTRAINT. 'VANCE OPPOSES USING SALT TO ACHIEVE SOME OTHER PURPOSE,' SAID AN AIDE, 'BUT HE FEELS PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN AFRICA WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVE SALT, SO HE IS PUSHING IT. OTHER OFFICIALS TEND TO REVERSE THAT LOGIC.' IF IT WERE ONLY MATTER OF LOGIC, THERE MIGHT NOT BE PROBLEM BETWEEN VANCE AND BRZEZINSKI. BUT NOW PERSONALITY CONFLICTS, LEAKS AND HURT FEELINGS ON BOTH SIDES WILL MAKE IT HARDER THAN EVER FOR JIMMY CARTER TO CONDUCT FOREIGN POLICY IN SMOOTH AND COMPETENT MANNER."

6. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT (APRIL 24) SAID "EVEN BEFORE 'SHEVCHENKO AFFAIR,' PROSPECTS FOR SALT BREAK-THROUGH WERE DIM. TWO SIDES ARE FAR APART ON AT LEAST SEVEN CRUCIAL ISSUES. WORD FROM OUR MOSCOW BUREAU IS THAT BREZHNEV SHOWS NO IGN OF FLEXIBILITY. RUSSIANS ARE CONVINCED CARTER IS ON DEFENSIVE AT HOME AND ABROAD.... CARTER'S CRITICS ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ATTACKS ON HIS ARMS PROPOSALS. THAT SPELLS TROUBLE IF AND WHEN NEW PACT GOES TO SENATE FOR APPROVAL.... ALL IN ALL, AUGURIES DID NOT FAVOR DECISIVE BREAK IN SALT IMPASSE." CHRISTOPHER

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